

a.) REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required that Applicants elect for prosecution one of the inventions of:

Group I (Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 11 (in part) and 12-14), drawn to a process of preparing a compound represented by formula (VII);

Group II (Claims 7 and 11), drawn to a process of preparing a compound represented by formula (IV); or

Group III (Claims 1-3 and 5), drawn to a process of preparing a compound represented by formula (II).

The formulation of this requirement is not well-understood. That is, all claims of Group III are also directed to a process of preparing a compound according to formula (VII) and so, should be included within Group I.

Clarification is respectfully requested.

Nonetheless, in response, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, namely Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 11 (in part) and 12-14 drawn to a process of preparing a compound represented by formula (VII).

Entry hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Lawrence S. Perry/
Lawrence S. Perry
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 31,865

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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